Government and the Archaeological Survey of India. The Ministry would now play a proactive role in this matter and decide future course of action after holding a joint consultation with the Archaeological Survey of India and the State Government of Assam.

Conversion of saline wasteland in Etawah and Mainpuri

3989. SHRI B.J. PANDA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total project outlay for conversion of Saline Wasteland to Agricultural land in Etawah and Mainpuri of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the source of the projects fueling;

(c) whether it is a fact that the project, as per bird express would affect the habitat of Sarus cranes;

(d) the population of Sarus cranes and percentage of World population; and

(e) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is reviewing this project in view of a threat referred to in part (a) above ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The project for Wasteland Reclamation in Uttar Pradesh has a total financial outlay of US$ 194.1 million (Rupees 932 crores approximately). The project is being funded by the World Bank.

(c) Drainage of wetlands is bound to affect the Sarus crane population.

(d) The estimated population of Sarus cranes in Etawah and Mainpuri districts of Uttar Pradesh is between 1500 and 2000 which constitutes 20-25% of world population of Sarus cranes.

(e) On the basis of the advise of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Ministry of Environment & Forests, the State Government has stopped the draining of wetlands under this project.

Financial assistance for FPI

3990. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have povided any financial assistance

for setting up of food processing industries in Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Chhatisgarh, Rajasthan and North-Eastern States, during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the details of funds utilised on the seting up of food processing industries in those States during the small period; and

(d) what steps are being taken or are proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries provide financial assistance to Food Processing Industries through a number of Schemes including Schemes for setting up Food Processing Industries and providing infrastructural facilities. Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Chhatisgarh, Assam, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram and Meghalaya in the North-Eastern Region have been provided assistance during the last three years *i.e.*, 1999-2000 to 2001-2002.

(b) During 1999-2000, 5 projects involving assistance of Rs. 190.01 lakhs in Uttar Pradesh, 6 projects involving assistance of Rs. 242.00 lakhs in Assam, 3 projects involving assistance of Rs. 56.68 lakhs in Manipur, 2 projects involving assistance of Rs. 104.72 lakhs in Nagaland and 1 project involving assistance of Rs. 44.30 lakhs in Meghalaya have been sanctioned.

During 2000-2001, 5 projects involving assistance of Rs. 557.01 lakhs in Uttar Pradesh, 4 projects involving assistance of Rs. 273.79 lakhs in Assam, 15 projects involving assistance of Rs. 328.39 lakhs in Manipur, 2 projects involving assistance of Rs. 225.00 lakhs in Tripura and 1 project involving assistance of Rs. 97.25 lakhs in Nagaland have been sanctioned.

During 2001-2002, 9 projects involving assistance of Rs. 193.27 lakhs in Uttar Pradesh, 1 project involving assistance of Rs. 5.35 lakhs in Uttaranchal, one project involving assistance of Rs. 200.00 lakhs in Chhatisgarh, 3 projects involving assistance of Rs. 87.54 lakhs in Assam, 7 projects involving assistance of Rs. 232.42 lakhs in Manipur, 2 projects involving assistance of Rs. 217.10 lakhs in Mizoram and 1 project involving assistance of Rs. 36.60 lakhs in Nagaland have been sanctioned.

(c) and (d) Different projects have different gestation periods. Utilisation of funds in respect of most of the above projects for which Utilisation Certificate was due, has been ensured. Utilisation of funds is strictly watched and monitored by the Ministry and the designated State Nodal Agencies.